

# Patients are the Foundation for Healthcare Interoperability

The health IT world is buzzing about the role of “interoperability” in modernizing the United States healthcare system – and for good reason. The seamless communication between electronic health record systems and medical devices can save time, money, and even lives. But how do we ensure we’re getting the most out of this new type of data exchange?

At CNSI, we understand the key to successful interoperability is remaining patient-focused. Recent actions by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) reflect a similar notion, as the organization integrates technology further into the American healthcare system.



Earlier this year, CMS made a major commitment to keeping patients the focus of healthcare data-sharing by [launching](#) its MyHealthEData initiative – an effort to give patients control of their medical data from the device of their choice. To further the initiative, last week CMS [announced](#) the launch of its Data Element Library (DEL). A great example of the transition to patient-focused interoperability, the DEL is a free resource that will improve the exchange of health information and coordinated care – specifically for post-acute care organizations.

CMS Administrator Seema Verma [stated](#), “DEL supports the use and sharing of data, and aligns with MyHealthEData, a government-wide effort strengthening the interoperability of

health information.”

The ability to collect and share data improves care coordination and offers the opportunity to improve current treatments and develop new and more effective options. What do you think about the latest effort by CMS to increase interoperability in healthcare? Join the conversation by tweeting @CNSIcorp.